

Constantine's Death and Character 303

/ di pictra— seized him. He built a new basilica in Rome— though he rarely set foot in the K. In Constantinople he must have sunk millions unproductive capital, which were far more urgently [Hired for the development of agriculture and commerce. In one epigrammatic sentence Zosimus sums up his indictment by saying that Constantine Right to gain distinction by lavish outlay.* ; also wasted the public revenue on unworthy and *less favourites, of whom he taught, in the phrase of Amianus Marcellinus, to open their greedy jaws •wees *aperitif*). Zosimus says bluntly that in his opinion it was Constantine who sowed the seeds of a ruinous waste and destruction that prevailed, when he wrote his history, and he roundly declares it the Emperor devoted his life to his own selfish purposes. \$

There is another character sketch of Constantine which has survived for us, drawn by an even more bitter enemy than the historian Zosimus. It is to be found in that amusing and extraordinary *«•« d* esprit* which bears the name of *The Ctesars*, from the name of the Emperor Julian. Julian detested the very memory of Constantine the Great, whom he regarded as the arch-apostate from the ancient religion, and, thus, when he introduced him into the Essence of the deities of Olympus, it was really to ridicule and contempt upon his pretensions.

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